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May 27, 1988
C311-88-2062

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1)
Operating License No. DPR-50
Docket No. 50-289
Modification to Reactor Coolant Pump Trip Criterion

GPU Nuclear Corporation recently has implemented a change to Abnormal Transient Procedure ATP 1210-10, regarding guidance in the event that reactor coolant pumps are not tripped immediately upon loss of 25°F subcooling margin following a loss of coolant accident.

The requirement to trip the pumps immediately upon an indicated loss of subcooling margin provides assurance that limits of 10 CFR 50.46 will be met. This procedural requirement has not been changed. The procedural revision specifies that if the 25°F subcooling margin is lost and all operating reactor coolant pumps are not tripped within ten minutes, then one reactor coolant pump per loop is to be left on for at least two hours. Previously one pump was to be left on per loop if all reactor coolant pumps were not tripped within two minutes. Best-estimate analyses performed by Babcock and Wilcox and found acceptable by the NRC (Reference 1) have demonstrated that tripping of the reactor coolant pumps within 10 minutes of loss of subcooling margin results in acceptable peak clad temperatures.

Since tripping the pumps is acceptable it is the preferred action to reduce risk of damage to the pumps. The pumps would thus remain available for restart if subcooling margin is restored, or to treat subsequent inadequate core cooling conditions should they occur.

This procedure change is in accordance with NRC guidance for justification of manual reactor coolant pump trip provided in Appendix A to Generic Letter 86-05 (Reference 1).

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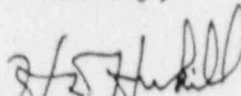
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This letter augments information provided by GPUN in our response to Generic Letter 86-05 (Reference 2), and is submitted for information. The NRC conclusions in Reference 3 are unaffected. No NRC response is expected.

Sincerely,



H. D. Hukill

Vice President and Director, TMI-1

HDH/SMK:fg

cc: J. Stolz - NRC
R. Hernan - NRC
R. Conte - NRC
R. Borsum - B&W

- References:
- (1) Generic Letter 86-05, "Implementation of TMI Action Item II.K.3.5 Automatic Trip of Reactor Coolant Pumps," dated May 29, 1986.
 - (2) GPUN Letter 5211-86-2123, "Response to GL 86-05 Implementation of TMI Action Item II.K.3.5," dated July 31, 1986.
 - (3) NRC Letter 5211-87-3169, "Safety Evaluation Relating to Implementation of TMI Action Item II.K.3.5 (Reactor Coolant Pump Trip) in Regard to TMI-1 (TAC 49698)," dated August 11, 1987.